

Gas Belt Items

"Showers the thirsty land refreshing" is just now our great temporal blessing, but we are not without our spiritual blessing seasons of refreshing for our weary souls. Such was our communion service at Oakville on the evening of the 27th ult. A very large per cent of the membership were present. Some whose hearts were with us were compelled to be absent on account of sickness. A number of the Eaton brethren were present to share in the services. This is as it should be. Sometimes I feel that our brethren do not attend these sacred festivals in other congregations as they should. If they are the means of uniting and binding the members of the local congregation together they would result in a similar way to bind our congregations. A union of this sort would be more effective than any system of government we could devise. A gentleman who attended our services for the first time, said, "I do not see how any one could hold hatred in their heart after engaging in the ordinance of feetwashing." It undoubtedly is a means of grace to the purifying of our hearts. When our hearts are pure there will be unfeigned love one toward another.

EVANGELISTIC WORK

The work of the month was begun by a week's meeting at North Liberty. The object of this meeting was to awaken an interest among the members and to encourage them to a greater effort in the work of the Lord. In this respect the result was encouraging.

On the third Sunday we were with the Goshen brethren for the first time. Since the opening of the work here the class has organized a Sunday school which is well attended and will become a great factor in holding and increasing the interest in the work. The interest and attendance of the Goshen brethren and sisters is very encouraging. A united and continued effort on the part of both the congregation and the district will secure for the Brethren church a permanent congregation in this place. The outlook is very encouraging. But these results must not be expended in a few months of effort but after the expenditure of much time and labor.

On the evening of the first day of the present month we landed again in the town of North Liberty, objectively to hold a meeting on Friday evening and conduct a communion service on the evening of the second. When this arrangement had been made a hall in town was rented for the communion, but I did not know where the service would be held on the evening of the first. While walking up street I met a lady who attends our meetings and inquired if she knew where the service would be? "Why, in their own church." Their own church? Was I dreaming, or was this person mad? Such were the thoughts which flashed thru my mind. All the time my informant kept pointing down the street. Looking in that direction I saw a building upon the lot I

knew was owned by the Brethren. That night for the first time in their lives the Brethren of North Liberty worshipped in their own house. This result so pregnant with good was brought about by a letter received by our good deacon from a member in the Advent church. After prohibiting our Brethren the use of their house for services on the first Sunday of June the following reason was appended. This house was built by a denomination (people) who kept the commandments of God. It was dedicated to God for the purpose of teaching the unvarnished truth and the commandments of God and not of men. Now you teach the opposite that is the Sunday Sabbath which is a commandment of men. We believe it to be a sin in the sight of God to permit anything but the Gospel truth to be taught in his holy sanctuary. I am happy to be in line with a man who said, "After the way which they call heresy so worship I the God of my fathers." It is a good thing that the heart be established with grace (truth in Christ) and not with meats (Sabbath keeping). By the deeds of the law (Sabbath keeping) no flesh shall be saved.

We had a most spiritual and soul refreshing communion. Followed by services on Sunday in which the attendance was more than tripple, over the usual attendance. Much honor belongs to the brethren by whose hard and continued labor the house was brought to the grounds belonging to the church. The building was an unused school house. By some repairing and reseating will make a comfortable place for worship, and will be the means under God of bringing many men and women to Christ thru the church at North Liberty.

To the brethren at Indiana let me say if nothing more be accomplished this year, than what has already been you have made a good investment and we praise God for what, by your aid, he has enabled us to do for this congregation. The nearest way to the foreign mission field is thru our district missions.

L. W. DITCH.

Travel Notes.

During the last few days I have attended the annual meeting of the board of trustees of Ashland College, the commencement exercises of the College and the Ohio State Conference, all three occasions of more than ordinary interest to me. The meeting of the board was interesting because of my solicitude for the success of the institution. It is not my purpose to publish a report of the work for the year as the president of the faculty will do that thru National Conference. Suffice it to say that the average attendance was almost double that of last year, the resources as large as expected except the income from the S. S. C. E. The disappointment from that source leaves the Board several hundred dollars in debt to the professors but the Board has the utmost confidence in the Sisters' Society and no doubt they will cover much of the shortage during the vacation season so we can commence

the next season's school with a clear record. Having added another professor to the faculty for the coming school year the expenses of the Board will be at least twenty per cent higher than the past season. There must either be a large increase of students or a considerable number of endowment bonds sold to meet this added expense.

The affairs of the Finance committee of the College were not mentioned in our Board meeting. This proves that they are not a part of the business of the College Board. The school is therefore not hampered with those old back debts any more but this does not relieve those who have not paid their apportionments or notes from the responsibility of their obligation. They will have to meet them here or hereafter, even if the money was not needed. An obligation is an obligation until it is met or forgiven, and as those College apportionments and notes have not been forgiven they continue to be obligations.

The commencement was a very enjoyable and highly creditable affair. It bespoke good work done in the school. Moreover, the students are themselves pleased with their advancement in their studies. They speak very highly of the faculty and all that I met are coming back to the school again.

The address of Prof. W. D. Furry was a masterly production. He completely demolished the materialistic philosophy and clearly showed that man must pass from the natural or material into the supernatural or spiritual to reach the high goal of an heirship with Christ. A sound philosophy in our school bespeaks for us a sound theology in the coming preachers of the church. This is something we greatly lack now. It is not an uncommon thing to hear some of our preachers propound one kind of theology in the morning and another kind in the evening of the same day. Under such circumstances is it any wonder that hearers are confused? Our school will mean more than simply to teach men to reason and speak well: it will give them the foundation of reason if I am not disappointed in the present faculty. Brother Furry's address would have richly repaid me for all my expenses from Philadelphia to Ashland and back again.

The Ohio State conference was in the main pleasant, profitable and practical. Owing to the Dayton fiasco there seemed to be a dark cloud resting upon it at first but the undaunted firmness of the moderator, Elder J. L. Kimmel, and the unanimity or oneness of mind of all the delegates prevented the discussion of the difficulty on the floor of the conference. A very sensible committee of a high class of Buckeye Christians gave Z. H. Copp and his followers a patient hearing and after almost a whole day of careful consideration of the matter, rendered a report unanimously approving of the work of the Board of Elders who had visited Dayton some time ago.

Having attended the Ohio conference a year ago, I could notice quite an increase of